

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application :

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A supporting rack, comprising:
a planar surface comprising a first and a second ~~portion~~ section;
connection means adapted to allow connection of said planar surface ~~portions~~ sections
to form a unitary planar supporting surface for supporting food or food containers;
wherein said unitary planar supporting surface is ~~adapted to be removably inserted~~
structured to facilitate removable insertion into a cooking device, and maintained therein;
wherein said connection means is provided by a plurality of mutually engaged rods
forming said rack and being so structured as to enable ready separation of said rack, said
plurality of mutually engaged rods connecting at least two smaller, planar sections, said smaller
planar sections include a joint wherein the ends of said plurality of mutually engaged rods of
one of said smaller, planar sections are smaller in diameter than the ends of said plurality of
mutually engaged rods of another one of said smaller planar sections, said ends of smaller
diameter being arranged to slide into said ends of another one of said smaller, planar sections,
said rack including a channel passing through each of said ends of said mutually engaged rods
of each of said smaller, planar sections, said channel being shaped to define an in-line position
when in operable engagement, and is secured with at least one securing pin passing through
the channel; and
wherein said first and second surface ~~portions~~ sections are capable of being folded
about said connection means or detached from each other to reduce the overall space occupied
by the rack and to facilitate handling and storage of the rack.
2. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said first and
second surface ~~portions~~ sections are substantially similar in size.
3. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said first and
second surface ~~portions~~ sections are of different sizes.

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4. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said supporting rack comprises a plurality of ~~portions~~ sections mutually interconnected and adapted to be mutually foldable or detachable.
5. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said cooking device is a domestic or commercial cooking oven.
6. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said cooking device is an outdoor grilling device.
7. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, comprising an outer frame adapted to interface with supporting slots provided along inner walls of an oven cavity.
8. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, comprising an outer frame adapted to interface with supporting slots provided along inner walls of a grilling device.
9. (Currently amended) A supporting rack, comprising:
a planar surface comprising a first and a second ~~portion~~ section ;
connection means adapted to allow connection of said planar surface ~~portions~~ sections to form a unitary planar supporting surface for supporting food or food containers;
wherein said unitary planar supporting surface is ~~adapted~~ structured to support said food or food containers above another planar surface;
wherein said connection means is provided by a plurality of mutually engaged rods forming said rack and being so structured as to enable ready separation of said rack, said plurality of mutually engaged rods connecting at least two smaller, planar sections, said two smaller, planar sections including a joint wherein the ends of said plurality of mutually engaged rods of one of said at least two smaller, planar sections are smaller in diameter than the ends of said plurality of mutually engaged rods of another one of said smaller, planar sections, said ends of smaller diameter being arranged to slide into said ends of another one of said smaller, planar sections, said rack including a channel passing through each of said ends of said mutually engaged rods of each of said smaller, planar sections, said channel being shaped to

define an in-line position when in operable engagement, and is secured with at least one securing pin passing through the channel; and

wherein said first and second surface ~~portions~~ sections are capable of being folded about said connection means or detached from each other to reduce the overall space occupied by the rack and to facilitate handling and storage of the rack.

10. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, comprising an overall quadrilateral or rectangular shape.

11. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 10, comprising rounded corners.

12. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, comprising an overall circular or elliptical shape.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, comprising a solid supporting surface.

15. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 14, wherein said solid supporting surface includes an array of apertures to allow heat or air passage.

16. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said supporting rack is formed of stainless steel.

17. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said supporting rack is formed of aluminum.

18. (Canceled)

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19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said connection means comprises at least one hinge; said hinge allowing a user to fold said ~~portions~~ sections of said planar supporting surface.

21. (New). A supporting rack according to claim 9, wherein said first and second surface sections are substantially similar in size.

22. (New). A supporting rack according to claim 9, wherein said first and second surface sections are of different sizes.

23. (New). A supporting rack according to claim 9, wherein said connection means comprises at least one hinge; said hinge allowing a user to fold said sections of said planar supporting surface.